

**What is claimed is:**

1: A method for transferring digital data comprising:

removing a first mass storage device from an information handling system;

reading at least a portion of digital data from said first mass storage device while

said first mass storage device is operated with said information handling system while

said first mass storage device is unmounted; and

storing said digital data read from said first mass storage device to a second mass

storage device mounted with said information handling system.

2: The method of claim 1, which further comprises, prior to removing a first mass

storage device from an information handling system, storing said digital data to said first

mass storage device while said first mass storage device is substantially mounted with

said information handling system.

3: The method of claim 1, wherein said first mass storage device includes:

a first data port, said first data port having a configuration so as to be utilized

when said first mass storage device is operated while mounted with said information

system, and

a second data port, said second data port having a configuration so as to be

utilized when said first mass storage device is operated with said information system

while said first mass storage device is unmounted.

4: The method of claim 1, wherein reading at least a portion of digital data from said first

mass storage device includes determining the at least a portion of said digital data to read

from said first mass storage device.

1 5: The method of claim 4, wherein determining the at least a portion of said digital data  
2 to read from said first mass storage device comprises marking the at least a portion of  
3 said digital data before said first mass storage device is removed from said information  
4 system.

1 6: The method of claim 5, wherein said marking of the at least a portion of said digital  
2 data comprises utilizing an indexing system.

1 7: The method of claim 1, wherein reading at least a portion of digital data from said first  
2 mass storage device comprises placing said first mass storage device in a cradle after  
3 removing said first mass storage device from said information handling system.

1 8: The method of claim 7, wherein said reading at least a portion of said digital data from  
2 said first mass storage device comprises transmitting the at least a portion said digital  
3 data from said first mass storage device to said information handling system in a serial  
4 fashion.

1 9: The method of claim 8, wherein said method further comprises storing digital data in  
2 said first mass storage device in a parallel fashion, before removing said first mass  
3 storage device from said information handling system.

1 10: The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises mounting said second  
2 mass storage device with said information platform after said first mass storage device  
3 has been removed.

1 11: An apparatus comprising:  
2 a mass storage device having a configuration so as to be used in conjunction with

3 a system which includes the capability to at least in part store digital data;

4 said mass storage device including:

5 a first data port, and

6 a second data port.

1 12: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage device is further arranged to

2 principally utilize, during operation, said first data port when said mass storage

3 device is operated while mounted with said system and arranged to

4 principally utilize, during operation, said second data port when said mass storage

5 device is operated with said system while said mass storage device is unmounted.

1 13: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second data port of said mass storage device

2 is arranged to be coupled, during operation, to another mass storage device, which is

3 substantially mounted with said system.

1 14: The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said second data port further has the capability to

2 both transmit and receive digital data from said system.

1 15: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage, when operated with said

2 system while said mass storage device is unmounted, transmits digital data from said

3 mass storage device utilizing said second data port.

1 16: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first data port is configured to, during

2 operation, communicate with said system via a substantially parallel protocol.

1 17: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one  
2 of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3 Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1 18: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said second data port is configured to, during  
2 operation, communicate with said system via a substantially serial protocol.

1 19: The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said substantially serial protocol comprises one  
2 of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus  
3 (USB) protocol, a protocol substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 specification  
4 (a.k.a. Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1 20: The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said mass storage device is capable, during  
2 operating, of receiving operating power via said second data port.

1 21: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said second data port is configured to, during  
2 operation, communicate with said system via a substantially parallel protocol.

1 22: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard disk  
2 drive.

1 23: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second data port comprises a cradle which is  
2 capable, during operation, of re-formatting digital data from said first data port before  
3 transmitting said digital data to said system.

1 24: An apparatus comprising:  
2 a cradle having a configuration to hold a mass storage device;

3           said cradle being further configured so that said cradle has the capability to  
4   reformat digital data received from said mass storage device and transmit said  
5   reformatted digital data to an information handling system.

1   25: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is further configured so that said  
2   cradle has the capability to reformat digital data received from said information handling  
3   system and transmit said reformatted digital data to said mass storage device.

1   26: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is further configured so that said mass  
2   storage device may be fixed mounted to said cradle.

1   27: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2   configured to, during operation, transmit said reformatted digital data to said information  
3   handling system via a substantially serial protocol.

4   28: The apparatus of claim 27, said substantially serial protocol comprises one of the  
5   protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus (USB)  
6   protocol, a protocol substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 specification (a.k.a.  
7   Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1   29: The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2   adapted to receive, during operation, digital data from said mass storage device via a  
3   substantially parallel protocol.

1   30: The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one  
2   of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3   Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1 31: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is capable of, during operation,  
2 providing operating power to said mass storage device.

1 32: A system comprising:

2 an information handling platform, which has the capability to at least in part store  
3 digital data; and

4 a mass storage device including

5 a first data port, and

6 a second data port;

7 wherein said mass storage device is coupled to said information handling  
8 platform.

1 33: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device is further arranged to

2 principally utilize, during operation, said first data port when said mass storage  
3 device is operated while mounted with said platform and arranged to

4 principally utilize said second data port when said mass storage device is operated  
5 with said information handling platform while said mass storage device is unmounted.

1 34: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device, when operated said

2 information handling platform while said mass storage device is unmounted, transmits  
3 digital data from said mass storage device utilizing said second data port.

1 35: The system of claim 32, wherein the said first data port of said mass storage device is

2 configured to, during operation, communicate with said information handling platform  
3 via a substantially parallel protocol.

1 36: The system of claim 35, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one of  
2 the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3 Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1 37: The system of claim 35, wherein said second data port of said mass storage device is  
2 configured to, during operation, communicate with said information handling platform  
3 via a substantially serial protocol.

1 38: The system of claim 37, wherein said substantially serial protocol comprises one of  
2 the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus  
3 (USB) protocol, a protocol substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 specification  
4 (a.k.a. Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1 39: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard disk  
2 drive and said information handling platform comprises a computer.

1 40: A system comprising:

2 an information handling platform, which includes the capability to at least in part  
3 store digital data;

4 a mass storage device; and

5 a cradle having a configuration so as to hold said mass storage device;

6 said cradle further having a configuration so that said cradle has the capability to

7 reformat digital data received from said mass storage device and transmit said

8 reformatted digital data to said information handling platform.

1 41: The system of claim 40, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2 configured to, during operation, transmit said reformatted digital data to said information  
3 handling system via a substantially serial protocol.

1 42: The system of claim 41, said substantially serial protocol comprises one of the  
2 protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus (USB)  
3 protocol, a protocol substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 specification (a.k.a.  
4 Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1 43: The system of claim 41, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is adapted  
2 to receive, during operation, digital data from said mass storage device via a substantially  
3 parallel protocol.

1 44: The system of claim 43, wherein said substantially parallel protocol one of the  
2 protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated Device  
3 Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1 45: The system of claim 40, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard drive  
2 and said information handling platform comprises a computer.